

## BOOK REVIEWS

**Diseases of the Skin.** Including the acute eruptive fevers. By Frank Crozer Knowles, M. D. Second edition. Philadelphia and New York: Lea & Febiger. 1923.

Every book has its own special excellencies, and the high point in this one lies in its illustrations and plates. For instance, there is an impressive photograph of erythema multiforme, and a speaking likeness of the cutaneous lesions of dermatitis herpetiformis, even to the tottering attitude of the patient. It is entirely fitting that this malady should be well illustrated here, as Duhring, who first described the disease as a separate entity, was the author's honored teacher.

Another interesting portrayal is of a belladonna eruption with the plasters in place, from which the eruption arose. It must always be remembered that severe constitutional poisoning may arise from this source, and, by the way, this bears witness to the efficacy of these plasters, which are now admirably prepared by our best drug houses.

Everyone conversant with skin disease is aware of the difficult problems presented by lesions of the hands, both those which are incurable and those which may be cured. A good photograph is given of epidermolysis bullosa of the hands, which is a congenital affection enduring throughout the entire life of the patient, and for which, as being incurable, only ameliorative remedies should be prescribed. As a contrast, there is an example of dermatitis from packing quinine, a most striking photograph, for which the remedy, a change of work, is obvious. Another good point brought out in the illustrations is of a kind of eczema which yields especially well to X-ray treatment. In fact, the hands are well pictured, and a list of these and the other illustrations would have been a decided advantage to this book.

There is yet another good point in the book, a chapter entitled: "Regional Distribution of Diseases of the Skin." As certain diseases do occur most commonly in certain regions, such an arrangement should be helpful in arriving at a diagnosis. In fact, Sabouraud has written a book, with the diseases arranged according to this plan. D. W. M.

**Sexual Problems of Today.** By William J. Robinson, M. D. Twelfth Edition.

Many of those who believe the sordid story of sex, as seen by the physician, should be made public property will endorse Dr. Robinson's book. Those who believe that much of the information given should remain privileged information of educated physicians will condemn the book in unmeasured terms.

**Surgical and Mechanical Treatment of Peripheral Nerves.** By Byron Stookey. With a chapter on Nerve Degeneration and Regeneration. By G. Carl Huber. 475 pages. Illustrated. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Co. 1922. Price \$10.

A well written book of nearly 500 pages, containing over 200 drawings, diagrams, and photomicrographs. The book has value, largely in giving the experiences and opinions of the writer.

The title indicates the contents only in part. Perhaps one-quarter of the book is given over to a consideration of anatomy, gross and microscopic, nerve degeneration and regeneration, and a critical consideration of the earlier methods of nerve repair.

The principal nerves of the extremities, the principal motor cranial nerves, and the plexuses are taken up in individual chapters. Bibliographies appended to each chapter are excellent and well selected. While in certain portions of the book the reader could wish for more detailed consideration of certain points, it has been obviously impossible

to follow all the by-paths into which one's interest might be led.

This reviewer wishes that more consideration might have been given to the details and possibilities of direct examination of individual muscle function. In the chapter on mechanical treatment, however, the exceptional experimental work of McLeod and his associates on the value of massage and electrical treatment has been omitted. The frequency with which cable grafts are featured seems to give undue emphasis to their practical value and the comparatively rare need of them.

The book is most readable and should be a valuable addition to the library of those interested in this branch of surgery. H. C. N.

**Management of the Sick Infant.** By Langley Porter, M. D. and William E. Carter, M. D. Second revised edition, illustrated. St. Louis: C. V. Mosby Co., 1924.

It is gratifying to students and colleagues of the authors that their book has reached a second edition in such a short time. Editors, as other physicians, must keep constantly available revised editions of good books to assist them in their work. We cannot say more for Doctor Porter's and Doctor Carter's book than that it is used as the editor's desk copy.

**Blood Chemistry.** Colorimetric methods for the general practitioner, with clinical comments and dietary suggestions. By Willard J. Stone. 75 pages. New York: Paul Hoeber. 1923. Price, \$2.25.

A small book (75 pages) embracing laboratory methods of blood chemistry, and its clinical application, renal function determination, food lists for the dietetic control of disturbances of metabolism and test and maintenance diets for the control of diabetes.

It is a compilation of tests and dietary methods found, and more comprehensively presented, in the usual text-books on these subjects.

The obvious purpose of the book is to encourage blood chemistry in the "small" laboratory. The tests are given with fractional portions of the normal amounts called for in the original methods; but the contraction of methods already microscopical renders more difficult and less accurate tests that demand the utmost exactness in their performance. E. A. V.

**An Introduction to the Study of Mental Disorders.** By Francis M. Barnes. Second edition. 295 pages. St. Louis: C. V. Mosby Company. 1923. Price, \$3.75.

A second edition means that there has been a demand for the book, and examination explains it. It is short. There are less than 300 pages. The style is good and it makes easy reading. It has given a concise history of psychiatry from the ancients to the present, and bridges the gap between the somatic school of Kraepelin and the newer work of the psychological school without belittling or exalting either, although it is apparent that the author does not rave over Freud. None of the arch-Freudians are mentioned in the bibliography.

As an introduction to psychiatry for medical students, it serves its purpose excellently. E. W. T.

**Intravenous Therapy.** Its application in the modern practice of medicine. By Walton Forest Dutton, M. D. 542 pages. Illustrated. Philadelphia: F. A. Davis Company. 1924.

Much heterogeneous information is gathered between the two covers of this book. The chapters on transfusion are complete and historically interesting. They make up about a sixth of the whole book. Besides them is an encyclopedia of diseases, listed alphabetically, most of which might well have been omitted. L. E. J.